■ BACK PAGE

Oberstdorf offers many new attractions to tourists

For many years Oberstdorf, at 2,500 feet above sea level, has been as well known health and winter sports resort. Its beautiful situation in a broad valley surrounded by the Allgäu alps rising over 6,000 feet around and the pure mountain climate make it a very popular holiday rendezvous.

With the building of a health centre in the midst of the village in 1962 it became a fully-fledged health centre. This consists of the main room with a concert hall, reading rooms and library, a spa rest room with swimming baths and sauna, a steam room, medicinal baths, baths for underwater exercises and various other establishments which make it an excellent centre for health cures and convalescence.

On top of this there is a 50-mile network of paths cleared of snow for patients to take healthy long walks organised by the staff at the health centre.

Life in the village is bright and gay, but most of the subsidiary valleys are closed to motor traffic and are quiet and restful. Paths in Oytal to Einödsbach, the most southerly inhabited place in the Federal Republic, into the Birgsau and The Spielmannsau seem as through they were created just for the hikes for a romantic trip in a horse drawn sleigh or, when there is no more snow on the paths, for a journey in a coach, costing seven Marks for the return trip.

Without doubt Obertsdorf has more horses than any other winter health cure resort and the people there go to great lengths to prevent his reminder of the good old days from dying out.

One of the most recent attractions in Obertsdorf for visitors who do not ski is ski-bob. Obertsdorf is the first Federal Republic centre offering ski-bob training and lending the necessary equipment. Even after a few training sessions on gentle slopes the least gifted of visitors can enjoy this sport. Another innovation has brought all year round sprint skating, curling and other ice sports to the artificial ice stadium. Nearly every week in the winter months there is organised ice skating events, ice hockey and ice dancing.

But for ski enthusiasts the Nebelhornbahn, the Söllereckbahn and ten other ski lifts taking skiers to as far up as 7,000 feet are provided. There is a new chair-lift to the chalet on the summit of the Nebelhorn affording a marvellous view all around and offering a menu with includes chamois steak and hot rhum with lemon.

The skiing area on the Nebelhorn now has three ski-lifts. Now even in spring when the crocuses are in bloom lower down on the Sööereck the snowy slopes are still within reach. Unfortunately visitors must still wait for a comprehensive season ticket for all the ski-lifts and other such amenities offered skiers. At present it is only possible to buy all inclusive tickets and weekly season tickets for the separate lifts and railways.

At Obertsdorf's ski school with about forty instructors beginners can learn the rudiments and more experienced skiers can become more experienced in advanced techniques and the like. There are special courses for children. For babies still too young to venture on to the snow there are kindergartens which will take the little ones off their parents' hands.

More elderly visitors whose ski-running days are over can tramp along the newly created ski-walks which are included in a detailed manual explaining lengths, climbs and differences in height. For those skiers who do great things the organisers at the centre offer certificates of merit.

There are several hotels and boarding houses with all in prices ranging from twenty to 65 Marks. Added to this there is the Hotel Höhatsblick at a height of 6,000 feet, high on the Nebelhornbahn, where guests are as near the sun as possible. Also there is the stylish Hotel Weigand with swimming bath and sauna.



Ski bob in Oberstdorf
(Photo: Helmut Müller-Jim/Kurverein Oberst

Between 12 January and 12 Feb most of the lifts and railways, the ski school and the ski-bob indstructors red their prices.

At nightfall in Obertsdorf sports do stop. Sledging is done by lantern lig Heaters are provided on the sledges thick blankets keep out the cold.

In the subsidary valleys there is chance to see wild animals and g feeding. At the end there is a nourish meal of rough bread and a grog to w up the hardy sportsman.

For those who like to indulge in scale après ski living Oberstdorf prov the amenities. The entertainment is c pleted with sports programmes and c certs.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 December 19

The German Tribune
A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS
Hamburg, 27 January 1970
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Bonn's Eastern initiatives mark time for the time being

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Reunification is dead; long live the nation. This, in a nutshell, is the conclusion to be reached after a day and a half's Bundestag debate on Chancellor Brandt's state of the nation address.

A clearing may not have materialised in the impassable jungle of the so-called German Question but it can hardly be denied that a considerable change has come about in the assessment of our national situation and, as a result, in the political aims pursued.

Attempting to delineate the change in historical terms it could, perhaps, be said that the Social and Free Democrats (SPD/FDP) and Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) have exchanged their roles in a manner reminiscent of Konrad Adenauer, a man to whom Christian Democratic speakers have so often felt able to refer.

The first post-war Chancellor soberly and uncompromisingly implemented the predominant target of his policies, integration with the democratic West, by means of a correct assessment of the international and power-political situation, paying rhetorical tribute to the ideology of reunification more for appearance's sake than out of conviction.

At present it is the Brandt/Scheel administration and the SPD/FDP government that soberly assesses the power situation and the Christian Democrats who seem unable to free themselves from the anti-communist illusion that something history has long left behind can still be restored.

This may not be true of everyone and in some cases amount to an exaggeration but by and large it is a fairly accurate outline of the difference between the government and the opposition.

As far as can be seen the Socialist-Liberal coalition has assessed the situation more accurately than the CDU/CSU. It thus comes as no surprise to hear that apart from occasional signs of weakness the ruling coalition came out on top in this party-political duel.

This was by no means a matter of course. During the Christmas recess the Federal government really left something of a vacuum. Walter Ulbricht's unacceptable offer threatened to signify failure. There was precious little clarity about the strategy and tactics of policy towards the Eastern Bloc. Franz Josef Strauss and others set to with a will to foster a feeling of scepticism.

After all this the dexterity and thoroughness with which Willy Brandt and his associates turned the tables was bound to come as a surprise.

Danger signals in financial and economic policy, rounded off in foreign policy terms by means of a collapse of the old Eastern policy concept, were interpreted by people who were only too anxious for the collapse to come about as portents of a debacle of the left-wing coalition with its wafer-thin majority.

Viewed with domestic policy considerations in mind, the debate on the German Question has without doubt considerably consolidated the political standing of the coalition parties and reconfirmed what had become a dubious stability, at least in the crucial sectors of foreign policy and policy towards the East.

The Opposition, on the other hand, much though it has also adapted itself to ominous realities and much though it may here and there have succeeded in committing Willy Brandt and his men to formulas that will not be greeted with cries of delight in either Moscow or East Berlin, did not succeed in tumbling the government into the Eastern policy underworld as some had hoped it might.

Free Democratic parliamentary party chairman Wolfgang Mischnick's attack on what he called the foolish talk of German interests being sold down the river has had the appropriate effect in that Franz Josef Strauss and others no longer resort to phrases of this kind.

Both sides can be credited with having resisted the continual temptation to engage in German policy self-immolation. The debate was of a far higher standard than is usually the case and this in itself represents progress after frequently tiring and fruitless discussions in which eternal half-truths were continually reiterated.

Willy Brandt provided the key to the explanation in noting that a general election was held not long ago and that differences of opinion tend to be openly aired at election time.

A further success for which both government and Opposition can be given the credit is the not inconsiderable degree of agreement achieved, to use Willy Brandt's phrase and formulate Rainer Barzel's demand.

The dilemma of varying viewpoints was resolved by the assurance given by CDU/CSU parliamentary party chairman Barzel that "We will not leave you on your own even if you do get into difficulties," and the opinion voiced by Free Democratic Under-Secretary Ralf Dahrendorf that the Federal government would do nothing that might worsen the situation, even if its efforts are doomed to failure.

All assessments so far made apply to the domestic policy aspect of the German Question debate in the Bundestag. Whether it has improved or extended the leeway of the government is another matter.

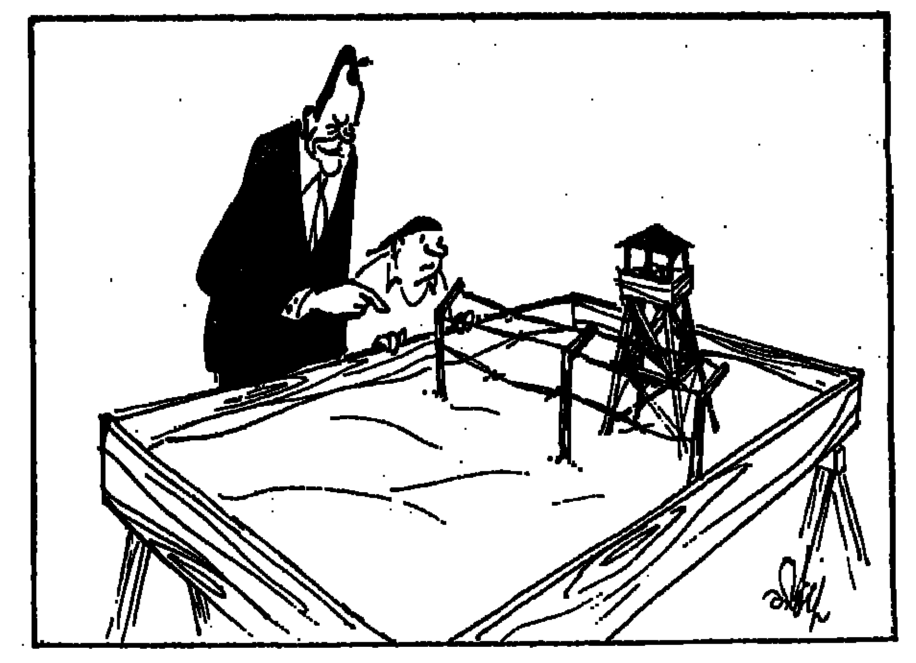
It became clear as early as in Willy Brandt's reaction to Walter Ulbricht that the high hopes of making progress with Eastern Bloc countries even at the cost of altering the basic stand are not guaranteed to come about.

This sobering realisation and the questions posed by the Opposition will have led to a clarification of viewpoints and an Eastern policy delimitation characterised more by caution and scepticism, which may or may not be advantageous.

Regardless of the changes that have occurred Bonn's new policy towards the Eastern Bloc is still at the experimental stage. The government has been given a mandate to carry on.

Oskar Fehrenbach

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 17 January 1970)



Report on the State of the Nation
(Cartoon: Fritz Wolf/Kieler Nachrichten)

IN THIS ISSUE

Ulbricht does not budge an inch

All is quiet on the Eastern front, or pretty much so, following Ulbricht's press conference. The East Berlin leader's exhaustingly long-winded introduction came as little of a surprise as did the uncommonly large number of journalists who had come in answer to the cabled invitation. It was the first time most Western journalists had been invited to attend a press conference by Walter Ulbricht for many a long year.

And the upshot? The first point to be noted is that Ulbricht left out virtually none of the old hat that East Berlin feels obliged to serve up again and again to a general public that cannot, with the best will in the world, be expected to gasp with amazement any more where relations between the Federal Republic and the GDR are concerned.

Once again there was a bucket of black paint at the ready for the revanchist, imperialist Federal Republic and a pail of whitewash for the peace-loving, democratic GDR. Shades of opinion did not fit into this pattern.

The only aspect that can be classed as surprising is that Ulbricht nonetheless went to the trouble of reiterating his basic views on relations between the two states.

His formula is well-known. Bonn revokes the Paris treaties that took the Federal Republic into Nato and acknowledges the status quo in Europe by establishing full diplomatic relations.

Counter-concessions by East Berlin, the argument continues, are unnecessary. The Socialist Unity Party (SED) fulfils the terms of the Potsdam Agreement while Bonn, together with Washington, is busy erecting an ideological Wall.

At the same time it was not entirely uninteresting to discover among the mass of propaganda the assurance that East Berlin considers its draft treaty to be no more than a draft and appears to be prepared to discuss counter-proposals from Bonn.

Ulbricht has thus not slammed the door shut, even though he can no longer harbour illusions about the attitude of the Federal government following Chancellor Brandt's state of the nation address.

It is also interesting to note that Ulbricht evidently accords Moscow the leading role on crucial issues of policy on the German Question. The SED leader expressly stated his intention of awaiting the outcome of the Moscow talks on renunciation of the use of force between the Federal Republic and the Soviet Union before entering into negotiations of his own.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 20 January 1970)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Russia goes in dread of Peking's propaganda machine

Not only the larger members of the cat family huddle together in the cold; prickly porcupines do too, the difference being that porcupines promptly hurt one another.

So do the three world powers, armed to the teeth but at present engaged in mutual negotiations. Vicious snarls are to be heard in Washington, Moscow and Peking before and after each diplomatic encounter.

Following the agreement on procedure reached by the United States and the Soviet Union in Helsinki strategic arms limitation talks are scheduled to be held in Vienna this March. As yet, though, there is no question of the two sides coming any nearer to agreement on details of disarmament.

Defence Secretary Laird has even threatened to step up US missile programmes in view of a similar move by the Soviet Union. Preludes to the new talks in Moscow do not sound unduly optimistic either.

Both sides would no doubt be only too happy to slash their arms estimates but each suspects the other of trying to gain the advantage.

The resumption of Sino-Soviet frontier talks is also linked to preparations for the Vienna disarmament talks, but the accompanying disharmony sounds all the shriller.

Peking maintains that the Russians are not even prepared to fulfil the first sine qua non of an understanding and acknowledge the illegality of their possession of large areas of Asia.

At the same time the Chinese craftily hint that they would be satisfied with this act of self-humiliation by the Soviet government and not immediately make appropriate territorial demands.

The Soviet negotiators on the other hand want only to discuss the avoidance of fresh military clashes. The Chinese demands are rejected in Moscow as an outflow of nationalistic adventurism.

The Soviet heavy artillery in this war of propaganda is a collection of historic material. Foreign correspondents have been given a preview of selected passages from an unpublished book by Soviet China expert Kapitsa in which Stalin appears as a witness for the prosecution.

Stalin, whose name Peking is always using, condemned rash Chinese revolutionary aid to India and Indonesia in 1950 and 1951, Kapitsa claims.

The prospects of agreement are thus none too rosy, but when porcupines recoil they do not automatically return to the attack. The assertion that Moscow plans to make a pre-emptive strike against Chinese nuclear bases in Sinkiang is dismissed in Moscow as nonsense.

It is true, too, that Moscow would hardly have despatched its Deputy Foreign Minister to Peking again had it been thinking in terms of warfare. Were war to break out, the Soviet Union would be hard pressed to defend the East Siberian railway to Vladivostok.

After a break of two years Chinese and American diplomats are to meet again in Warsaw, thanks to an American initiative. President Nixon has not only sounded a cordial note in Peking's direction; he has alse relaxed the embargo on US trade with China.

Even so, it is still a long way from slight hints of this kind to agreement on, for instance, Formosa. Vice-President Agnew recently reiterated to Chiang Kai-shek his country's unchanged solidarity.

So Sino-American talks for the time being probably represent merely a warning to Moscow not to rely on the other two great powers being continually at loggerheads.

At present Bonn is justifiably worried about Moscow's uncompromising attitude towards the Brandt-Scheel administration's detente proposals. Is this anxiety to be assuaged by a glance at the international political background to the negotiations among the three superpowers?

There once was a Federal Chancellor who seriously believed that differences between Russia and China might alleviate this country's position provided it waited patiently and did nothing.

In point of fact this clash serves only to worsen the Soviet attitude towards this country. When *Peking Review* accuses the Brandt government of planning to annex the GDR and Brezhnev and Kosygin of favouring the idea Moscow cannot fail to be less well-disposed than ever towards reasonable proposals from Bonn.

It fears Chinese propaganda *more* than Chinese military pressure. Porcupines are not entirely peaceable even when kept at a distance.

Immanuel Birnbaum

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 January 1970)

Television appeal for information on Lenin in Germany

People in this country have been asked by the Soviet Union to notify Moscow of any documents referring to Lenin's occasional stays in Germany that are still in existence.

In Report from Bonn, a television current affairs programme, Soviet ambassador Semyon Tsarapkin asked all institutions, organisations and private individuals in the Federal Republic to notify his embassy of anything that directly or indirectly has to do with Lenin and his stay in Germany.

Documents, letters, notes and jottings from books Lenin used are bound still to exist in various archives, Tsarapkin said. There must surely also be photographs and other material relevant to Lenin's life and work the existence of which is still unknown to Soviet specialists in Lenin's estate.

Tsarapkin is the first foreign diplomatic chief to appeal directly to the general public via television in this way. The appeal was in connection with the centenary celebrations of Lenin's birth, due to be held on 22 April.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 January 1970)

Nigeria must act promptly

Impatience is growing both in Europe and overseas about the time General Gowon of Nigeria is taking to accept the aid proffered for the sick and hungry people who have survived the war in the Eastern region.

It is not that nothing is being done. The Nigerian authorities' assurances that Red Cross aides followed the advancing Nigerian troops to assist the civilian population must be credited until the opposite is proved to have been the case.

But without doubt more could be done than has been so far. Nigeria can hardly cater for the entire former Eastern region with the same personnel strength as has been used to provide emergency relief in previously liberated areas, to use the Federal government's term.

More staff will be needed. Far more food and medicine will be essential. And above all, prompt action is called for.

No one has the slightest understanding for bureaucratic games such as in part are being played in Lagos and the overemphasis of a sovereignty no one has questioned – not even among the countries that have considered the Federal government's unerring insistence on national unity right and the secession of the Eastern region wrong.

Nigeria, it is said, will accept only the aid of friendly countries and organisations. To this there can be no objection. General Gowon's rebuff of Joint Church Aid is understandable after all that has transpired in recent years.

No sovereign state likes its territory to be regularly overflown without permission. It is probably too early to expect Lagos to forget, though African magnanimity would go a long way towards clearing the Federal military government of many accusations and suspicions that have been voiced.

Yet enough offers of help have been made by friendly countries and organisations and so far not one of them has been accepted. At all events a number of countries are waiting for the green light from Lagos.

It would appear that the language used by the envoys of the great powers flown to Lagos to stress to the Nigerian head of state the urgency of large-scale rescue operations was not forcible enough.

They ought politely, clearly and unmistakeably to state that the aim in view is a good one – for Nigeria too. The Federal government in Bonn must also increase its efforts to impress upon the Nigerians the need for prompt and unbureaucratic action.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 January 1970)

Bonn - Paris relationships

Latent anti-German sentiment on both Left and Right in France has to led to prompt and convenient comparison of Bonn's moves towards the Eastern Bloc and Rapallo. The French government, on the other hand, has taken every opportunity to assure all and sundry that it is in complete agreement with Bonn's policy towards the East.

The truth is somewhere between the two extremes of anxiety and unconditional confidence.

At the forthcoming Franco-Federal Republic consultations Foreign Minister Schumann and President Pompidou will assure their German opposite numbers that while they have no intention of calling a halt to the German policy they would, at the crucial present stage of East-West contacts, greatly appreciate full utilisation of the consultation facilities provided for in the Franco-Federal Republic friendship pact.

Behind the official Paris pronouncements of unconditional confidence in the Federal government there exists an extremely subtle analysis of the threads recently spun between Bonn and Moscow, Warsaw and East Berlin.

France welcomes Bonn's signature of the non-proliferation treaty as one obstacle less in the way of agreement with the East. The same goes for Bonn's attitude towards the Oder-Neisse line, which General de Gaulle declared permanent as long ago as 1959.

France is encouraging this country in its moves to improve relations with Eastern European countries under the Kremlin's sway. It sees them as a contribution towards the bilateral preparation for all-European security talks that France prefers to Moscow's proposals for bloc to bloc contacts.

France is worried nonetheless by all developments that might tend to affirm the status quo of divisions in Europe.

This is why there is far more interest in Bonn's talks with the Soviet Union and contacts with East Berlin as opposed to the fundamental goodwill that is felt towards links between Bonn and Warsaw.

As regards the desire to liquidate the demarcation lines drawn up at Yalta, France still pursues the General's policy. Well-disposed though Paris may be towards renunciation of force, it remains unmistakeably anxious lest the Kremlin utilise an agreement on renunciation of force as a means of finalising at one fell swoop everything that since 1945 has been referred to as a political reality.

This France would like to forestall. Under M. Pompidou strengthening of national independence in Eastern Europe and goodbye to hegemonies remain cardinal maxims of French policy.

As regards Bonn's contacts with East Berlin careful hints from official sources make it clear that Paris feels no concessions whatsoever are possible on at least one point: the Four-power status of Berlin that Herr Ulbricht would like to undermine by making it the object of negotiation.

When Governing Mayor Schütz of West Berlin was in Paris M. Pompidou also made a point of informing him that much as West Berlin initiatives were to be welcomed on behalf of the general public they must on no account endanger this status.

(CHRIST UND WELT, 16 January 1970)

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■ CENTREPIECE

Extracts from Chancellor Brandt's report on the State of the Nation

As regards today's subject, I have the following to state:

Twenty-five years after the unconditional surrender of the Hitler Reich the concept of the nation is the bond around divided Germany. Nation combines historical reality and political will. Nation embraces and implies more than a common language and culture, and more than a State and social structure. A nation rests on a people's enduring sense of solidarity.

Nobody can deny that in this sense there is and will be one German nation as far as we can think ahead. The GDR in its constitution also professes itself to be part of this German nation.

We must have a historical and political perspective when we discuss the state of the nation, when we reaffirm the German people's claim to self-determination. History which has divided Germany through her own fault will decide when and how that claim can be satisfied. But as long as the Germans muster the political will not to abandon that claim, the hope remains that later generations will live in a Germany whose political order all Germans can help to shape.

In a European peace order, too, the national components will play their role. But the path that leads to German self-determination within such a peace order will be a long and thorny one. Its length and labours must not restrain us from seeking, in the present phase of history, if that is possible, regular neighbourly relations between the two States in Germany.

However, the two state and social structures that have now been existing on German soil for more than two decades, reflect completely different and incompatible ideas of what the unity of Germany, what a common future should look like and how it could be reached.

Patriotism demands awareness of what is and the attempt – again and again – to find out what is possible. Patriotism demands the courage to see the reality. This is not synonymous with regarding this reality as desirable or giving up the hope of changing it in the course of time. But sincerity – without which no policy is possible in the long run – requires us to refrain from demands whose fulfilment belongs to the sphere of illusion and wishful thinking. It also requires us to protect our people from being led to their doom by pied pipers.

There must, there can and finally there will be negotiations between Bonn and East Berlin, too, a trading of arguments is not enough. But on our part there are some guiding principles which cannot be renounced:

Firstly,
the right of self-determination;
Secondly,
the striving for national unity and freedom within the framework of a European peace order;
Thirdly,
the ties with West Berlin without impairing the Four Powers' responsibility for the whole of Berlin;
Fourthly,
the Federal Government respects and will continue to respect the rights and responsibilities of the Three Powers in respect of Germany as a whole and of Berlin. We have no thought of tampering nor of letting any one tamper with these rights and responsibilities. These include commitments both for the Federal Government and for the Governments of the Three Powers.

In the face of this situation the question arises: which are the objectives towards which German policy should strive?

The first answer is that those parts of Germany which today live in freedom must be kept free or – as has been said – that the Federal Republic must recognise itself. The second answer is that we must also solve problems only by peaceful methods. The third answer is that we must make our contribution in order that more human rights be granted and practised.

Here, logically, the question arises: How can these objectives be achieved today by German policy? They cannot be attained any longer by the traditional means of the nation State, but only in alliance with others. In future there will be no political settlements of significance any more outside of alliances, security systems or communities.

In future German problems of importance can be dealt with not in terms of the nation State and in traditional fashion but only through gradual endeavours for a European peace order.

So it is a matter of seeing and respecting realities – not by any means in order to put up with existing wrongs in resignation but rather in order to remove from Europe's frontiers their divisive character, and this very much aware of realities.

Everywhere it has become clear that in our efforts to ease tensions in the East we can rely on the confidence and approval of our friends and allies.

The Federal Republic of Germany is not 'wandering between two worlds'. Without the background and the security afforded by proven friendships and proven alliances there could be no active German contribution towards the policy of détente at all.

The principal aim of our policy is to make the renunciation of force the basis for improving our relations with all Eastern European States. Since the German people in its entirety cannot hope for a peace treaty in the foreseeable future, the renunciation of force can furnish the basis for settling with the various countries in Eastern Europe individual political questions now capable of a solution.

The Federal Government supports the intention of the Three Powers to talk with the Soviet Union on Berlin, the confirmation of the city's status, and improvements in its situation. I hope that those negotiations will be successful. They may well be off to a good start because – in spite of vociferous propaganda in some quarters – none of the said Powers wants to change this city's status.

The realities comprise the ties which have grown between West Berlin and the Federal Republic, and the city's position in our common economic and monetary system. I consider it as a harassment of the international talks I have mentioned that the GDR presumptuously demands of the Federal Government to stop for example working sessions of the parliamentary groups or of committees of the German Bundestag in Berlin. We have no less right to be in Berlin as the Volkskammer, which regularly holds its sessions there.

The Federal Republic remains a Western State by its ties and conviction. The GDR remains an Eastern State by its ties and the will of its leaders. These are the facts. They must not keep us from organizing neighbourly relations and from trying cooperation, from proceeding from confrontation to cooperation. Thi task for the Germans both here and on the other side. The Federal Government is resolved to assume its share of the responsibility with all ensuing consequences. It will not allow itself to be detracted from that intention, neither by interferences nor by defamations or insinuation, wherever these may originate. It will submit to this test and thus also make other Governments prove the seriousness of their intention, their sober approach to things and their willingness to do what is possible now. To do this without losing sight of the security angle is my present task as Federal Chancellor as it was during my long years as Governing Mayor.

The two States in Germany are not only neighbours but parts of one nation who continue to have a lot in common. Can there be anything more natural for them than to settle practical problems as reasonably as possible? We are willing to do so. We are ready to help crate those arrangements that can lead to mutually acceptable solutions in the fields of trade and industry, science, transport, postal services, cultural affairs, sports, the exchange of information etc. We could thus first of all catch up on the backlog that exists between us in comparison with the relations of both States with third countries. That backlog must be made up before we come to particularly close relations as should be right and proper for two States of one nation.

One can understand that the Government in East Berlin is bent on political equality and also on certain abstract formalities. But one must also understand that the Federal Government can be flexible on many problems only if this results in simultaneous facilities and reliefs for the people in divided Germany.

The welfare of a State counts little if not identical with the welfare of its citizens.

In conclusion I can state on behalf of the Federal Government that our attitude is determinde by a dispassionate and realistic assessment of the situation. This means that the Federal Government enters upon the negotiations with the Soviet Union, Poland, the GDR, and others in the firm resolve to hold serious negotiations and desirous of the most positive development; it also means that it does not entertain any illusions concerning the difficulty of these negotiations, and that in view of the firm positions which it maintains and continues to maintain it cannot exclude the possibility of failure, although it certainly does not wish these negotiations to fail. The Federal Government, however, submits itself and the other Governments which I have mentioned to the test of the earnestness of the efforts for détente and peace.

Willy Brandt's statement of fact to the nation

Willy Brandt's report on the "State of the nation" given to the Bundestag on Wednesday 14 January deserves its name. It depicts the situation in this country, just as it is. It describes the situation in the Federal Republic here and now in the first year of the seventies.

To tell people what is going on is the task assigned to the Chancellor when he makes such a speech. There should be no illusions, no pulling the wool over people's eyes. The Chancellor should not lament on how the nation should be. And the state of a nation in which two independent states have come into being is a serious matter.

However, this situation if it is tackled without excesses of emotion, and with a cool, matter-of fact attitude, attempting to explore the possibilities which still remain after more than two decades of a divided Germany for bringing the two states closer together, and to make their coexistence more tolerable.

This first such report from the head of the Socialist-Liberal coalition government brought with it no sensations. In his statement of government policy last year Chancellor Brandt said as much as he dare say: there are two German states.

Having said this he had broken the spell. The guide lines for practical policies were set. Only people addicted to illusions could promise themselves a great leap forward as a result of Willy Brandt's government declaration.

If we leap forward we will only run our heads against the Berlin Wall, or get tangled up in the barbed-wire at the demarcation line. That is the fact of the matter – that is the state of the nation.

"As these facts do not permit leaping forward it is clear that to make progress we most move forward stealthily and with great caution, aiming for the goal we have set ourselves.

The Chancellor has noted these facts in his speech. Unfortunately he could not resist the temptation to revive a few slogans from the past in his repertoire. The Intra-German policy of the Brandt-Scheel government for 1970 will be flexible on all sides. Perhaps it will be too flexible in the face of a strong Opposition.

The general idea seems to be for the government to keep its hands from being tied so that it is able to take quick action if and when it sees an opening to come to an agreement with the Eastern Bloc countries.

With this in mind the Chancellor has not named any days for taking up discussions, nor has he said how senior the officials from Bonn and East Berlin should be who will take part in any such discussions. Nor did he make any statement in reply to the offers made by the head of the German Democratic Republic government, Walter Ulbricht.

It is far more likely that he will write and tell the GDR Prime Minister Willi Stoph that the Federal Republic cannot come to any agreement on these terms. But the outline of the immediate steps to be taken should have been made clearer.

Everything has in fact been put off to a later date. And nobody can make great play of the much-sung, much rumoured initial achievements since the Chancellor smartly reminded us all of the initial achievements of the Federal Republic with regard to the Western world, over which nobody should discriminate and which had in the end proved very useful.

Topic number one in the Bonn catalogue of pressing matters was renunciation of force. This is a broad, general classification in which a number of individual topics could be included.

Each side has drawn up its lines of demarcation over which it will not step. But room to play in political spheres is not so limited that all parties cannot edge a little nearer to each other.

It would be a good thing for the Brandt-Scheel government if it could take the next steps with more spirit. The purpose of this would not be to the greater glory of the Bonn government, but in order to relieve tension in Central Europe.

Gerhard Ziegler

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 January 1970)

■ POLITICAL PARTIES

Young Christian Democrats face unknown future

Less than two years ago it would still have been questionable to write off the Young Union as a restive, youth organisation of the Christian Democrats.

While the misguided youth of the other two established parties had long been in revolt against their political seniors and had gradually gained the bad reputation of being black sheep in the party, young Christian Democrats always behaved like well brought up children who knew their place in the ordained power structure. And this occurred although or really because the Young Union was not controlled by its parent party as much as the Young Socialists were.

Parties and their youth organisations

	Party members	Youth groups' membership
SPD	750,000	150,000
CDU	300,000	117,000 (CDU and CSU)
CSU	110,000	
FDP	80,000	18,000

The ambition of the Young Union was not to be the party's progressive vanguard. It represented more a sort of auxiliary force and canvassing organisation of the party leadership and it cannot be said that they made the lives of those responsible more difficult by forwarding new ideas.

On the contrary. When at the end of 1966 the Christian Democrats and Christian Socialists decided to form an alliance with the Social Democrats the views of the Young Union proved to be more of an obstacle. This was true of German policy for instance.

And while Young Socialists and Young Democrats have long had a place on the periphery of their respective parties the youth organisation of the CDU/CSU has the reputation – and it is probably not unjustified – of being a stronghold of tacticians and careerists.

Many of those who have risen in the party started off in the Young Union – the deputy chairman of the CDU and former Research Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg can be cited as a prototype of this group.

In recent years it has become more difficult for the young Christian Democrats to rise in status and hold high office. But of the 117,000 members of the Young Union 1,313 still sit in district councils, 65 in the Provincial Assemblies and 43 in the Bundestag. The organisation provides 244 mayors, fourteen district magistrates and three ministers in the governments of the Federal states.

As the matter does not end with this sort of success alone the young Christian Democrats seem to be becoming more and more of an entity. At the last congress two months ago in Hamm a real mood of self-criticism predominated.

The lamentation of a state chaiman speaks for itself: "Up to now we have had the same bad image among the younger generation as the CDU/CSU has. Our position is no more favourable at all. A watch chain, cigar, hat, wife and five children do not make us any better than we are. Where have we still got contact with the younger generation? Where has our critical disposition gone? When in the past have we had contact with the workers? "

Defeat is obviously a good pre-condition for self-criticism. Analysing the situation, deputy chaiman Riesenhuber said, "The government acts, the Opposition thinks."

Handelsblatt

That the Union parties went into opposition after 28 September was not a direct result of the election defeat but it certainly had something to do with it. The party youth are the first to see that the CDU is getting less and less respect, especially from the young.

In the Federal elections the SPD scored its greatest successes among the younger generation. This trend should increase when eighteen-year-olds are allowed to vote in the next election.

There can be no doubt that the Young Union has a special role here. And the Young Union starts from the point that the situation will change only when the party does too.

But criticism did not start only after 28 September. In March 1969 Federal Secretary Lothar Kraft wrote. "Because the strong men of the Young Union want too much power and all the time concentrate on obtaining positions, offices and influence, their organisation is reduced to a springboard for their political and essentially selfish aims."

A year previous the then Federal Chairman Egon Klepsch met great opposition when he spoke out against employees' participating in decision-making after a meeting with leading representatives of the CDU Economic Council in Koblenz.

And a resolution of the Hamm congress proposing a congress to discuss worker and employee participation in decision-making contains the remarkable sentence, "The Young Union advocates increased discussion on the possibilities of further participation in the economy."

The Hamm congress marked a great turning point. Even the language used by the young Christian Democrats smacked in parts of the anti-authoritarian terminology of the extra-parliamentary opposition.

With the eagerness of converts they spoke of reforms, new accents, a tightening up and modernisation of the CDU and of democracy in the state and the society. They added that the Young Union must put their own ideas through against the wishes of the party.

But not much was to be heard of their own ideas as the Young Union representatives demanded no more than has been demanded everywhere else in the party. The Young Union have put themselves at the head of the reform movement but they did not set this movement off.

The Young Union has broken with its past but its future is still unknown. An outward expression of the turning point was the replacement of Egon Klepsch who had been chairman for many years. He would doubtlessly have had little chance even if the upper age limit for membership of the Young Union had not been reduced from 40 to 35, thus debarring him from remaining at the organisation's head.

But the election of the new chairman, 32-year-old Hamburg lawyer Jürgen Echternach, bears all the signs of a compromise. What is true for him is also true for the Young Union. People must get used to the sudden turn to a progressive policy.

As in the organisation as a whole there are two rival wings at the top as well - the two deputy chairmen Riesenhuber and Count Stauffenberg, followed by the associations of Schleswig-Holstein, Rhineland Palatinate and Baden-Württemberg on the left and the other Federal state associations in the centre and on the right wing.

The sceptical question of one observer who asked whether Echternach might be a victim of his dynamism in the friction between these two wings does not seem to be unjustified.

Heinz Immendorf

(Handelsblatt, 12 January 1970)

SPD examines views of under 35 party members

Aided by the largest survey in its history the SPD is trying to gain a picture of the views of members aged less than 35.

Particulars of the answers to the 32 questions on the questionnaires sent out will be submitted to the party's congress in Saarbrücken in May.

When asked what measures he was thinking of taking against the revolt of his party's youth, Willy Brandt's first answered disarmingly, "Oh – measures", a remark that has become wellknown. Then with a show of calmness he added, "We'll have a meeting."

Neither Brandt nor the other SPD leaders are losing sight of the time bomb whose ticking first became clear to everybody at the Young Socialists' Federal congress in Munich. Under the slogan "We are the SPD of the eighties" 204 delegates demanded that the SPD should return to a course of Socialist policies.

Brandt has already declared to the highest party committees that the Young Socialists' views are contrary to those of the overwhelming majority of a party whose membership has now grown to over three quarters of a million. The party leader does not concede any representative validity for the radical opinions of the Young Socialists who can claim to speak for 150,000 members.

But the SPD leadership has indicated that it does not underestimate the seeds of discontent at the foundations of the party. This month all the recommendations of the Munich congress will be examined.

Referring to this Brandt said, "Over and above this, I do not want to conceal the fact that I am and always have been in favour of treating seriously the idealistic views of young people who demand the impossible."

The first step towards this is the questionnaire which runs to eight pages. 150,000 of these are now being sent to all Social Democrats under the age of 35. This, the greatest survey of opinions ever to have been held within the SPD, was decided upon as early as March 1969 and was sanctioned at the extra-ordinary party congress in Bad Godesberg.

Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, SPD business manager and the man to whom Young Socialists refused to listen at their Federal congress in Munich, praised this action, saying that the party's reaction to the Young Socialists was political and not administrative.

In the questionnaire the party's youth organisation is addressed as "Dear Friends". In point three of the introduction the party leadership shows that it is prepared for reforms. "What changes can be made in the party so that the young have a better chance of coming into evidence? "

But immediately after this comes point four and an undisguised invitation to think of their own position. "What structure is needed for the work of the Young Socialist working groups can be intensified? What is the most practical upper and lower age limit for Young Socialists? "

The qiestionnaire, programmed by the Infas-Institute, first inquires after the sociological position within the party. But after the third question ("Do you hold any functions in the SPD organisation? ") the questionnaire immediately turns to the role of the Young Socialists. The scale of judgments allowed on the work of the Young Socialists ranges from "very good" to "bad".

After judgment has been given, advice is asked for: "Should the Young Socialists have greater effect in the party or rather convey party views to the voters? "

Proposals are also to be made on the correct age limit for Young Socialists. People filling in the form have three choices, up to 35, up to 30 or up to 25 years old.

Young party rebels who fear a decrease in the Young Socialists' influence if the age limit is reduced from 35 proved to be extremely sensitive in Munich on this point. They proposed a motion in which they threatened to examine the possibility of forming if need be a youth association that would be independent of the party.

Apart from exploring the position of the Young Socialists the questions are devoted quite generally to the relationship of the SPD to the younger generation.

Four alternatives were offered to the question "What could be done to make the youth participate more intensely in practical policy? "

1. The youth must be able to pass their claims for power in an open vote at a conference of delegates.

2. The youth should provide a fixed contingent of members of the Bundestag guaranteed by rules of statute.

3. Nobody above a certain age (say 65) should be allowed to be a condidate or member of the Bundestag.

4. Young people should work their way up (by sticking bills, distributing pamphlets and collecting contributions).

Young Social Democrats had a similar choice when it came to the question of how their influence in the party could be increased.

Questions number twelve and thirteen ask for criticism. Among points that can be crossed are:

"Posts are distributed by a small group."

"Young members are too radical and spoil their own chances."

"The party offers a member too few opportunities of doing something important off his own bat."

"Party meetings are usually unpolitical."

"There are too many resolutions discussed that then remain ineffective."

"The level of discussion is too low."

"Older members treat younger members with a general mistrust."

Werner Diederichs

(DIE WELT, 10 January 1970)

■ PROFILE

Horst Ehmke - a hard worker at the centre of power

WORKS BEST WHEN WORKING UNDER PRESSURE



A telephon rings on Horst Ehmke's desk. On the other end of the line a State Secretary complains, as comrade to comrade, about difficulties experienced with his Minister.

Horst Ehmke, Federal Minister of the Chancellor's Office, listens a while and then asks sympathetically, "Is it very serious? Should I pop over? "

This story is vouched for. Like many anecdotes of similar substance told about Willy Brandt's aide it throws light on Ehmke's role in the new government.

The robust and self-confident professor of jurisprudence fulfils the most inconspicuous but most important funtions in the social-liberal government. He organises the defence, calms the game down and builds up the attack.

Ears prick up in Bonn when the name Ehmke is mentioned. For although the 42-year-old Minister has intentionally kept in the background of late his influence is not concealed.

To define his role as accurately as possible has almost become a party game. Some call him the deputy Federal Chancellor and others Brandt's Prime Minister. Wits say that the Chancellor should actually be called Brehmke.

Ehmke has a position that generates curiosity and leads people to give free rein to their imagination. That may be due, in part to his natural vitality but the main reason must be that he works the levers at the centre of power. Recently he is said to have bet two colleagues that he knew what was going on in their ministries better than they themselves did. It is reported that he won both wagers. Ehmke must be the best-informed man in the Federal government. And his opportunities are not yet exhausted by a long chalk.

According to Ehmke's plans the Chancellor's Office will in future become



(Photo: Sven Simon)

even more of an axis of the Federal government. The ambitious young Minister is determined to put into practice as soon as possible a large number of those proposals worked qut by a planning group commissioned by Brandt's predecessor Kurt Georg Kiesinger.

Under Kiesinger, organisation at the Palais Schaumburg was antiquated. The Chancellor's Office was actually more of a secretariat, waiting for what the individual ministries cooked up and then handing it on to the Cabinet or putting it in the files. Coordination was unknown.

The reorganisation of the Chancellor's Office should ensure that all Ministry proposals are announced in good time so that they can be coordinated with other plans and harmonised with mid-term financial planning.

Ehmke himself plans to head the necessary planning staff. If an early warning system of this type had existed when the present government was formed, it is stressed in Palais Schaumburg that the affair about a Christmas bonus for pensioners announced by Minister of Labour Walter Arendt would certainly never have happened. In future the green light for proposals of this type will be given only when Ehmke's staff have worked out the political and financial results with the aid of a computer.

A position of this sort automatically arouses colleagues' envy. But those working around Ehmke are quick to point out that the information of the new planning staff will be available to all ministers. One of the primary aims of the reorganisation of the Chancellor's Office it to improve communications between individual ministries.

In order to avoid any anger cropping up, Ehmke is said to have asked the Chancellor to outline firmly his rights and duties. Ehmke can be assured that further "crown princes" for the time after Brandt would certainly not have been enthusiatic about a different ruling.

After the Adenauer era and his aide Globke the Chancellor' Office was completely disused. Ehmke hopes now that he can liven it up a bit. He thinks of his role primarily as being an adviser and manager to the Chancellor. He must see to it that the Chancellor is not overburdened with trifles and bagatelles.

All Brandt's files cross Ehmke's desk where they are signed with a black pen. The other ministers without exception use a green pen. But as Brandt writes his instructions in green Ehmke decided to use black.

Questioned as to whether he will be able to maintain his present work-rate he normally answeres with the remark that he will manage it but his staff will fall by the wayside.

For this reason he has asked his ministerial colleagues to make their best men available to him.

He obviously feels best when high performance rates are demanded of him. Lately he has often come to the conclusion that he has no time to eat. On days that are paricularly hectic he sees nothing wrong in greeting visitors while still chewing the remains of a bread roll.

Ehmke was known to be a night-worker while still at the Ministry of Justice. In the Chancellor's Office too he likes to see his desk cleared of files. So it is not a rare event for the light of his office not to be switched off until the early hours of the morning.

Udo Bergdoll

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 January 1970)

Conrad Ahlers reorganises Federal Press Office

Plans of the former government spokesman, Günther Diehl, to centralise all Federal government publicity under the authority of one special department failed mainly because of the opposition from individual ministers.

Now State Secretary Conrad Ahlers is trying to put these plans into practice in a modified form. The Press Office, subordinate to the Federal Chancellor, has been reorganised by Ahlers so that it can take over, as a central bureau, the publicity work of all Federal ministries.

The solution begun by Ahlers does however show some changes to ideas put forward by Diehl, who had wanted to form a special Federal body apart from the Press Office.

Primarily for reasons of rationalisation and saving expenditure this body would have taken over the mid and long-term work of the individual Federal ministries and received for its work the financial means given to these departments.

These plans failed because the ministries wanted to be independent even in their publicity. The plans also lead to Diehl's being accused of wanting to set up a sort of propaganda ministry.



Ahlers on the other hand offers the individual departments this central publicity work through the Press Office as a service. In contrast to Diehl's plans the individual ministries do not need to make use of this central agency.

The ministries must however put their financial allocations at the disposal of the Federal Press Office if they use the office to prepare brochures, annual reports, supplements, newspaper advertisements or other publicity.

The Press Office pointed out that the planned increase of staff was not connected with the reorganisation. As far as could be seen only six new positions would be needed. Diehl's plans would have required a much greater increase in personnel.

An additional piece of information is the fact that there are hopes in the Federal Press Office that this year will see an extension built to the department.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 9 January 1970)

Federal Press Office experiments with news computers

An attempt is being made at present by the Federal Press Office to construct a news computer so that news and other political facts will be at hand when needed.

The Federal Press Office is about to establish archives where computers will be used to store statements by the Chancellor and other political information of topical or historical interest.

Four computers of this type are to be installed for the whole Federal government. The first will presumably be controlled by the Federal Press Office and will store exclusively facts of a political nature.

A second is planned for legislative work. It will mainly be at the disposal of the Ministry of Justice and the Bundestag.

The third is to be allocated to the Ministry of Finance and will be able to store facts of a fiscal nature. The fourth will be made available to the Federal Statistics Office for special tasks.

The Ministry of Science and Education will be responsible for the general administrative work involved in the use of the computer equipment that the Federal government wishes to install. An office will be set up in the Ministry of the Interior to attend to coordination.

The Federal Press Office has for some time been experimenting with a computer elsewhere and has fed it with 15,000 items from news agencies. When the computer was asked to give back information it had been fed semantic difficulties were encountered. Now ways are being sought to overcome this.

According to reports this is the first time that a large scale experiment to store information in this way has been undertaken. In the near future the Federal Press Office will try to make computer programming suit its own particular demands through a series of experiments.

A recent experiment showed that this was necessary. A computer was asked to say what Kurt Georg Kiesinger, at that time still Federal Chancellor, said on 21 August 1968 on the occasion of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. It did not prove easy to entice the desired answer from the computer. It had to be approached from varying standpoints before the questioner was satisfied.

The use of computer banks in the Federal government will not only increase the efficiency of political and administrative work but will at the same time result in new demands on staff and more financial expenditure.

It is reported that the Press Office needs sixty more staff this year though of course not all of these will be used for computer programming.

The Press Office's primary task is to expand the domestic department. Reports of economic and financial policy will thus be increased. Earlier heads of the Press Office have not placed due importance on this branch.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 January 1970)

Adviser appointed for cultural policy

Hans Gerd Peisert, a professor at Constance University, is to act as an adviser to the Foreign Office in Bonn in matters concerning cultural policy abroad.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that Professor Peisert would help to work out a comprehensive plan for cultural policy abroad.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 January 1970)

THEATRE

Peter Palitzsch produces new 'Wars of the Roses'



Shakespeare's historical dramas are not cross-sections of the times depicted and are not only dynastic tragedies.

Jan Kott is one of the main people to have claimed this. In his book on Shakespeare he says that history itself is depicted. The treatment is not coloristic, history is shown in the power mechanisms that controls it.

Applied to England that means the transition from the culture of the ancient tribes with primitive norms such as vendetta and the laws of violence to the more civilised forms of a state based on law and order.

Independent of their geographic location the royal dramas reveal power play as an absolute value as well. Most productions, as long as they do not try naively to take the place of a history book, start from this basis. Reviewing the last few years the most radical and important production in one of this country's theatres must be Claus Peymann's production of *Richard II* in Brunswick where nearly all the historical ballast was eliminated.

Peter Palitzsch has already worked together with dramatic producer Jörg Wehmeier and stage designer Wilfried Minks in Stuttgart's Württembergisches Staatstheater on the trilogy of *Henry VI* (performed in Stuttgart on two evenings under the title "War of the Roses"), *Richard III* and now a condensation of the two parts of *Henry VI.*

Palitzsch goes an essential stage further than a mere depiction of the mechanics of power in an historical framework. He wishes to show the political moral. His interpretations of the royal dramas are anti-war, especially wars waged for the reasons revealed in these plays. War makes an animal of Man, it torments and demoralises the people and forces even the best to murder each other.

Palitzsch shows this to telling effect in various ways. It is hard to overlook the demonstrational character of his production of *Henry IV* in spite of the powerful action in some scenes and the abundance of comedy when Falstaff appears.

This is shown for instance in a gripping, almost silent ritual murder after the Battle of Shrewsbury. While the fallen are counted between blooming trees in the background an unarmed opponent is hunted like an animal and stabbed dead by three soldiers made brutal by war.

Or again in the inspection scene where corruptibility triumphs and poor human existence is led to the slaughter. At the same time Palitzsch denounces Falstaff's seemingly so gay roguery. Behind his worthy, wine-bibbing features the audience has a momentary glance of a more unpleasant malignity.

The common people are quoted in these scenes not only visually but many times in the text too which Palitzsch and Wehmeier have re-translated, as they did earlier for the other two productions.

The introduction of a new level into the drama seems compatible to the director's intentions but is difficult to integrate so long as the work is allowed its structure and the new level is not used merely as material for an unconstrained montage. For events between the king, princes, earls, dukes and churchmen are primarily extremely private disputes about privileges, influence and possesions. The common people are not represented in this elevated power play. At the most they participate passively when the dispute escalates into open battle.

Because it is no different even with Shakespeare accentuations in this direction always seem to be more or less contrived. Palitzsch does not bring his additions into formal harmony with the material available. This is because he does not make any decisive encroachments into the play – not that that is to be faulted. This is also the objection to his latest production.

His intelligence as a producer, his sense of scenic palpability can once again be admired. A decisive part of the production, and not only an addition, is Minks' décor: a completely unchanging environment embodying the fullness of Baroque imagination runs through all 27 scenes into which Palitzsch and Wehmeier organise Shakespeare's two five-act plays totalling 35 scenes. A large Gothic stained-glass window dominates the background with symbols of Christianity, a statue of the Virgin Mary, a child's bloody head before a cross and a slaughtered pig on the cross. There are vague associations of Rembrandt and Otto Muehl too but this is comparatively secondary because these allusions are to be understood in a general sense. Between the blooming gladioli surrounding the stage lie dead soldiers in their uniforms, but already turned into skeletons.

References to the production can be seen everywhere. And yet the longer an observer looks at the stage something odd happens. Its free, autonomous value protrudes more intensely. There are differences between the critical involvement of the producer and the aesthetic desires of the stage designer. Perhaps they do not feel this because Palitzsch and the no less involved Minks want the same thing but wish to express it in different ways.

Minks' plan divides the stage into three levels. A depression to the back of the stage helps skilful organisation of the battle scenes. Courtly ceremonial and the entry of nobles take place on the normal stage level. Falstaff's world and that of his companions is a central raised platform.

This too is symbolically intended. The world of comedy, of perhaps better humanity and fusty philistines is on top. But at the end comedy has to surrender its position. Henry V, newly crowned, stands on the raised platform while Falstaff and his cronies are led down from the heights somewhat woe-begone.

Humour no longer has any place when a new war, this time against France, is announced as soon as a bloody civil war has ended.

It is splendid the way that Palitzsch leads his actors into this design for the play, the way he closely intermingles the two levels of action and often allows scenes to merge into one another.

Gerhard Just is retiring as he should be in the role of Henry IV. Peter Roggisch is strained and versatile as the Prince of Wales. Hans Mahnke as Falstaff is not just a mere agent of comedy but stresses the ambiguity of the figure.

The theatrical effect of the performance at times pushed into the background all opposition and objections. This seemed to be expressed in the final applaus too.

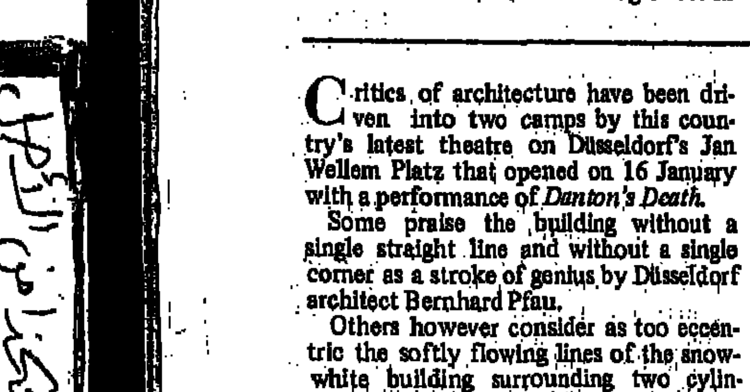
Gerhard Rohde

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 January 1970)



Henry IV played by Gerhard Just and Prince Hal played by Peter Roggisch in the Düsseldorf production of 'The Wars of the Roses'. (Photo: Madeline Winkler-Betzendahl)

Düsseldorf's new theatre divides the critics



Critics of architecture have been driven into two camps by this country's latest theatre on Düsseldorf's Jan Wellem Platz that opened on 16 January with a performance of *Danton's Death.*

Some praise the building without a single straight line and without a single corner as a stroke of genius by Düsseldorf architect Bernhard Pfau.

Others however consider as too eccentric the softly flowing lines of the snow-white building surrounding two cylindrical towers.

But both groups are better off than people in Hanover who have had no theatre for a long time.

Whatever the truth of all this, Düsseldorf's new theatre, uniting a large auditorium and a studio stage under one roof, is more bold than conventional and can be considered to be a star example of new theatre architecture in the Federal Republic.

Turning now to technical details, the main auditorium has 1,036 seats, the main stage is eighty feet wide by seventy feet deep, the revolving stage has a diameter of sixty feet, the grid-iron is 78 feet high and there is a programmed lighting system.

The studio has between 200 and 300 seats all depending whether the movable stage is used as an arena or a peep-show.

There is one delicate point – the cost of forty million Marks. The preliminary estimate when the foundation stone was laid in 1965 was 31.5 million Marks.

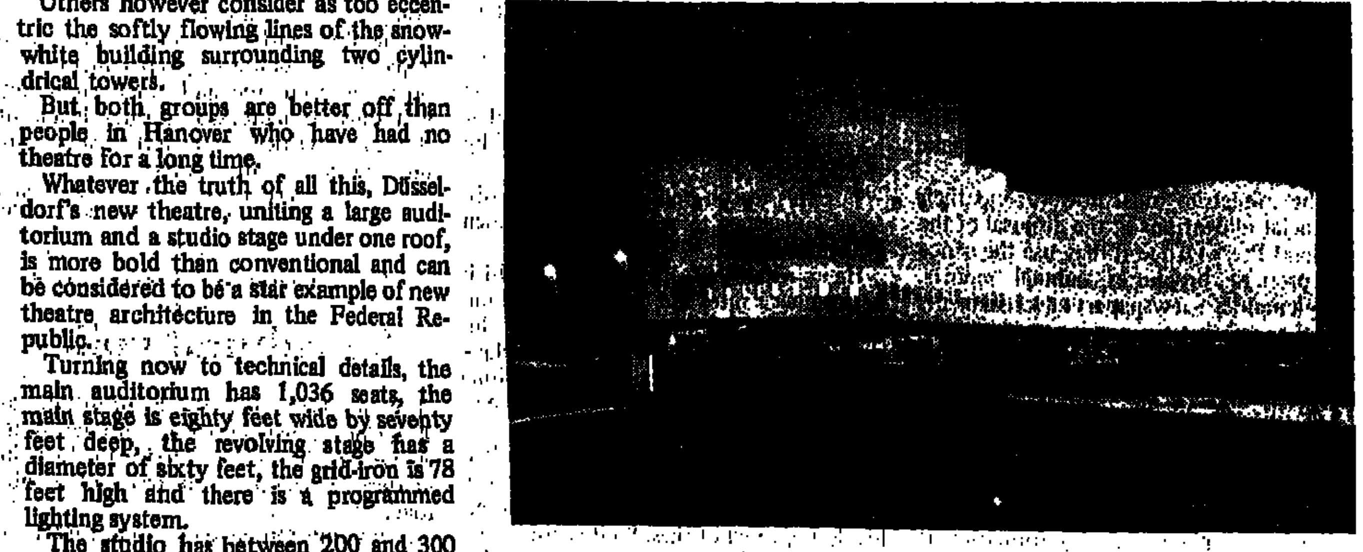
The rise in building costs all over the country is not the only reason for the increase here. The construction has become a little bigger than originally planned. Loud voices were heard in the town hall because the town council was not informed of this in good time.

A special commission examined the case for longer than a year and one councillor reduced the findings to one simple formula – we ordered a Volkswagen but a Mercedes was delivered. But these incidents are in the past and will scarcely be mentioned in the opening speeches by the Mayor and the Minister of Education.

Remarkably this is the second theatre to have been built in Düsseldorf since the end of the Second World War. The first was built in 1951 in the ruins of a former operetta house for what today is considered to be the fabulously low price of 1.1 million Marks.

The theatre director at that time was Gustaf Gründgens. Gründgens used to exult in front of guests about this little theatre conjured up out of a wilderness of ruins. He had been in Düsseldorf since 1947 and had had to act in works

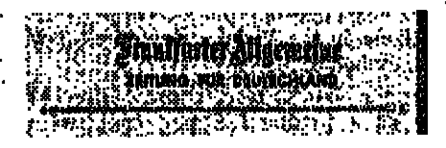
Continued on page 7



Büchner's 'Dantons Tod' was given at the first performance in Düsseldorf's new theatre that has been built at a total cost of 40 million Marks. (Photo: Lore Bernbach)

THINGS SEEN

Memories of a great artist – Ernst Barlach



Ernst Barlach, the distinguished German sculptor, gave many people in this country what they had sought from other writers and thinkers: Art as a definite confession and recording of visions, spiritual battles (The Spititual Fighter being the name given to one of Barlach's works.) and metaphysical passions.

As no other artist Barlach discovered in his native country, particularly in the north, an almost faithful parish. After the boost Barlach received in the immediate post-war years as an example of the contemporary artist's lot, as a martyr and moral monument, the 100th anniversary of his birth comes at a time when he is regarded with a deal of reserve and coolness, a time which has difficulty interpreting his tortured efforts and his "message".

This is particularly true of his work as a writer. Searching for his dramas, novels and autobiographical works has achieved nothing.

His creations as a sculptor, these powerful at the same time inwardly shattered and dramatically contorted figures do not escape our awareness so easily. There seems to be a contradiction in the utter formlessness on the one side and the plastic simplicity and ruggedness on the other. Barlach himself kept his dramas back and did not like performances of them which, when they occurred, he avoided.

But in fact these two aspects of his work are complementary. To speak of Barlach having a dual genius is to underestimate him. We are in fact dealing with a totality of awareness which found itself forced into manifold tragic limitations and fragmentations as a result of its poverty of expression. In this respect Barlach is like his great contemporaries at the turn of the century.

Barlach used speech and drama with numerous characters as a possibility for expression in dialogue and in his open manner, but the unfolding of dramatic means largely escaped him. Plastic arts forced him to specification and manifestion even though he pushed abstraction and the breaking down of old barriers to the limits of their potential. The stark concrete expression in which he succeeded became *his* achievement. It reduced him to dealing with form even though he wished to overcome and transcend form.

Involuntarily he shares in this respect the fate of his generation: being cohersed to use the torso and the fragment. The starting point for this was Rodin's sculpture of the two raised hands to which he gave the title, "Cathedral".

Barlach never really wanted to accept this. All his life he wrestled for a spititual and artistic universality verging on collapse into chaos.

The Symbollists discovered psychological and mythological solutions for this universal awareness, Jugendstil developed the infinite line as the spiritual instrument by which it penetrated all aspects of living and united them.

Barlach who had much in common with these two groups even the typical Jugendstil tried to surpass all ideas of artistic fulfilment and embodiment aiming at impenatrable metyphysical connections.

In his sketches the figures have a fluidity. But the sculptures correspond to, the sketches in that the figures are reduced to hollow corporeality against an imaginary background. They are driven and unharnessed in their volume, they stretch themselves, they listen or look to the outside world or concentrate on an inner world. They are consumed by inner fires, and are victims of their own importent passions.

Barlach's boldest form of expression is the hovering figure, the incredible, miraculous raising up of his material such as can be seen on the Däubler monument and the Güstrow monument which can be found today in a Cologne church.

These figures are fragments but for them Barlach planned greater outlines, a totality of art in the form of monuments. Almost all his atempts at monuments failed to materialise, his gravestones, a Hindenburg monument, tributes in stone and the Beethoven monument. But they failed too in their design.

Attempts to give plastic form to such visionary concepts demands an astounding amount of imagination. Later Barlach turned his attention to Gothic churches, and in the west wall of St Katherine's in Lübeck for which he planned sixteen niche figures but could only complete three and the chapel in Güstrow Cathedral for which he designed a soaring angel.

Characters and events in his dreams are surrounded by a vacuum of space and gesture. In them there is a threat of complete dissolution and mystic chaos averted by the Biblical and legendary material.

Barlach event wanted to dispense with individual characters since they signified limitations rather than liberty, as he once said, and prevented the whole from getting off the ground. This led to his characters having crises of identity and hallucinations. There remains an aimless monomanaical urge for self-realisation.

The motto "Werden" (Become) is a vague mystical bridge into uncertainty. Sometimes Barlach goes to the other extreme and tried to realise on earth the inherited metaphysical realm. He looses his certainty, becomes dubious and threatens to fail. For instance in "Die Sündflut" (The Flood) and in "Blauer Boll", God appears, and in the lator the Devil and witches as well.

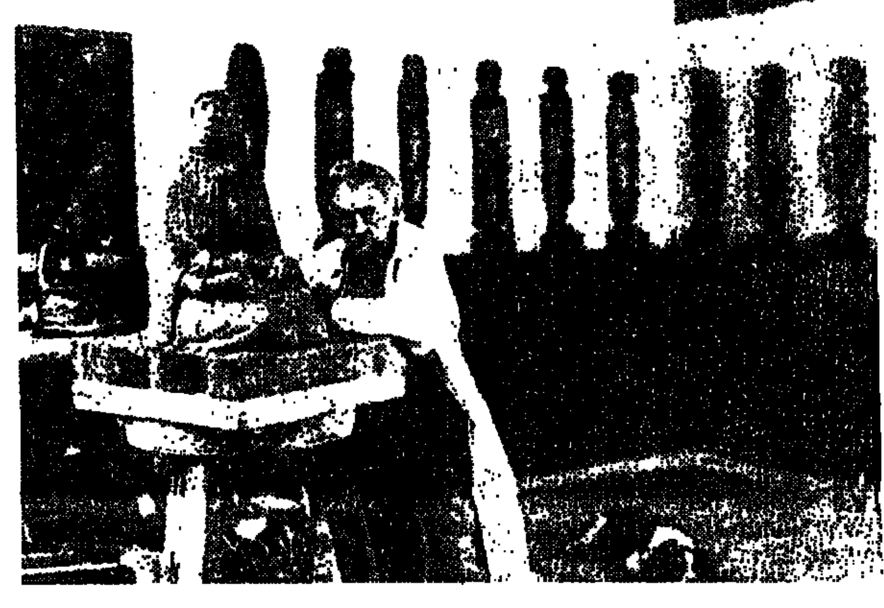
Sometimes the private world of thought of this man so divorced from reality is astounding. The First World War influenced him powerfully and it became the metaphysical experience he had sought so long, the "greatness, the generality, the deification, the ascention to totality, the release" which he was awaiting. In his blindness he spoke about the "proletariat", social changes and the Weimar Republic until, in the thirties, he became the victim of the new system.

It remains a mystery how such a great talent for sculpting was compatible with this diffuse and endangered awareness.

When Barlach went on a trip to Russia it was an anti-educational excursion and a "neuer Aufbruch" (new beginning).

Eduard Beaucamp

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 January 1970)



Ernst Barlach in his Güstrow studio (Photo: Ernst-Barlach-Haus Hamburg)

Puppets on a shoestring

The annual conference of Federal Republic professional puppoteers in Kassel concerned itself with the search for a new artistic and economic conception.

One of the founder members of the puppeteers union, Hellmut Selje from Bielefeld, said at the conference that puppet theatres in this country were getting into increasing financial difficulties, since, with a few exceptions, they were excluded from the normal donations and subsidies given to other theatres.

He added that the art form is now suffering from old-age and unless some novelties are introduced senile decay will set in and the artistic standards will decline.

Hellmut Selje considers that the long famous tradition of puppet theatres in this country demands more state aid to bolster up this branch of the arts.

One way of giving a boost to puppet theatres would be to set up a chair of puppeteering as exists already in Eastern Bloc countries. (DIE WELT, 6 January 1970)

Grete Mosheim

Grete Mosheim, the actress, one of the most outstanding figures on the German speaking stage turned 65 on 8 January this year.

Up till recent times her dramatic talents have been appreciated by audiences in this country. The career of this famous Berlin actress began on the stages of her native city and in films before, in 1934, she had to emigrate and sought a new career for herself in London and New York.

After a long absence from this country she returned to 1952 to Berlin's Schlosspark Theater in John von Druten's drama "I am a Camera" based on Christopher Isherwood's novel, "Farewell to Berlin".

In Grete Mosheim's repertoire are various parts which speak for themselves: the morphine addict Mary Tyrone in Eugene O'Neill's "The Long Day's Journey into Night", as Claire Zachanassian in Dürrenmatt's "The visit", as Winnie in Samuel Beckett's "Happy Days" and her favourite role of the ageing woman Hannah in Tennessee William's "The Night of the Iguana".

In 1963 She was awarded the drama prize of the Federal Republic's critics society.

She has also played Amanda Wingfield in William's "The Glass Menagerie", and finally the neurotic woman Mrs. Pamela Puffy-Picq in "Chin Chin".

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 January 1970)

Continued from page 6

canteens and half-ruined school halls where dramatic climaxes were sometimes disturbed by rats running across the stage.

Miss Flickenschildt, at that time a star in Gustaf Gründgen's ensemble, recently glorified the artistic elan of those days. At any rate Gründgens set the decisive accents in the post-war theatre history of Düsseldorf, not only as producer and actor but as theatre director of some skill. At his Düsseldorf theatre he cut the organisational form to his own particular needs. The old style municipal theatre became a new theatrical limited company with Gründgens moved to Hamburg's Deutsches Schauspielhaus in 1955 and was replaced by Karl-Heinz Stroux.

Like Gründgens Karl-Heinz Stroux knew how to take advantage of this freedom and offered many great productions in the 1.1 million Mark auxiliary building on the Jahnstrasse.

The Düsseldorf theatre, compared to other theatres, needs relatively small subsidies. That is amongst other things a result of the staff's willingness for hard work. In addition the ensemble often perform as many times as four times on an evening, including the numerous excursions to the small towns round about and tours abroad.

Stroux has prepared a whole host of premieres for the new theatre on the Jan Wellem Platz. He himself is producing *Danton's Death* and the premiere of Ionesco's *Triumph of Death* which the playwright finished only a matter of weeks ago.

A former general superintendent in Frankfurt, Harry Buckwitz is producing *Trotsky in Exile,* Peter Weiss' latest work.

On the studio stage Jean Pierre Ponnelle is preparing for *The Bacchae* of Euripides and the premiere of Heinrich Böll's *Clown* is also expected under the direction of Heinrich Radek.

All producers are praising the exellent stage technique made possible in the new building by Willi Ehle, the veteran technical director of the Düsseldorf theatre.

Willi Ehle enjoys world-wide fame and is responsible for the stage technique of the large opera house recently built in Istanbul. He was technical assistant to Gustaf Gründgens when the latter was general superintendent of the Preussisches Staatstheater on Berlin's Gendarmenmarkt. (Hannoversche Presse, 7 January 1970)

■ MEDICINE

Wiesbaden's Mayo Clinic on trial

Münchner Merkur
Münchener Zeitung
für Politik, Wirtschaft, Kultur und Sport

More than forty specialists in 33 medical fields, have just taken up new positions. Mathematicians, physicists and engineers have also been appointed. Medical and technical assistants are moving into the laboratories.

The computer is ready for operation. The most modern diagnosis equipment ranging from electro-cardiographs to large X-ray installations have been built.

On 2 January the National Diagnosis Hospital in Wiesbaden, called in short the Federal Republic's Mayo Clinic as it is based on the famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester, USA, began a trial run. The team of health experts and diagnosticians are collaborating at working with the equipment. But the first patients will not arrive until 2 April when the hospital is opened.

The hospital, not far from Wiesbaden town centre and the Kurpark, provides facilities for examing 300 to 450 patients every day. Already the "Mayo Clinic" is booked for three months.

There has been strong public interest in the development of this diagnosis centre on the American model where doctors only examine and do not treat patients.

The Federal state of Hesse took over securites to enable the hospital to be built. Capital was raised through joint-stock subscriptions. Construction alone cost forty million Marks.

It is still incertain, three months before the opening, whether a third of the patients will come here on the strength of their contributions to sickness insurance, as has been continually promised by Dr Krutoff, the hospital's founder. Will the medical associations be proved right in their assertions from the very beginning that this would turn out to be a rich people's hospital?



Wiesbaden's new clinic (Photo: AP)

Costs of a thorough examination or check-up lasting anything from one to four days are still to be announced. A hospital spokesman said, "We do not know ourselves yet. It depends on what special work is needed during the examination."

Famous Frankfurt doctor Leo Krutoff did not let himself to be led astray by questions of this type. Krutoff, whose patients include politicians, bank presidents and trades union leaders, spent three months in America in 1966 and took the opportunity of inspecting the Mayo Clinic as a temporary doctor there. doctor there.

On his return he wrote a book on this world famous hospital, now 100 years old and a model for more than 100 large and two thousand smaller diagnostic hospitals in the United States.

But he also decided to build a "Mayo Clinic" in the Federal Republic. Rich and influential patients offered the enterprising doctor help and the necessary capital.

Construction of the five storey hospital complex began in May 1968. The topping-out ceremony took place as early as autumn 1968.

Then the complicated interior construction began. The hospital has only one ward of ninety beds where patients who cannot walk will be examined. Those who can walk will stay at hotels in Wiesbaden or in the Aukamm Hotel built privately next to the hospital and containing 120 rooms and ten apartments. Another building near the hospital has 100 apartments for staff. Equipment at the examination centre, including nuclear medical apparatus, is rented as is the computer that evaluates the findings of examinations by specialitsts and diagnostic equipment.

Dr. Krutoff is convinced that modern medicine cannot do without a system of persons and apparatus raised to perfection. No doctor can read the 14,000 medical periodicals that appear all over the world. The computer should store this knowledge and use it to the patients' benefit.

Patients are sent to the Mayo Clinic by their family doctors. A central guidance office takes care of them as they go from specialist to specialist for examination. After 24 hours at the earliest, or four days at the longest, the patient is given a diagnosis that is as correct as the present state of medicine makes it possible.

The basic examination includes electro-cardiogrammes, X-rays of lungs and heart, twenty different blood tests and many other examinations.

(Münchner Merkur, 2 January 1970)

Research aids eye patients

A considerable proportion of cases of eye disease and blindness can be traced to the body's faulty rejection mechanisms.

Auto-aggressive diseases now play a central part in medical research. Immunopathology has also proved important in organ and tissue transplants. In ophthalmology it plays a considerable role, primarily in cornea transplants.

Cornea transplants have now become almost a matter of routine in the operating theatre. Contrary to transplants involving other tissue relatively few complications occur. In the Federal Republic nearly a thousand cornea transplants are made every year to restore the vision of patients with opaque or deformed corneas.

Around eighty per cent of these operations are successful. Complications occur in about one fifth of the cases, caused partly by the body rejecting foreign protein.

This is unusual. Normally foreign tissue is rejected when transplanted into the recipient's body. This is basically true for cornea transplants. But the immune reaction is less frequent because the transplant tissue is very small with a diameter of a few millimetres and contains no blood vessels that can carry lymphocytes, the cells that form the main defence of the body against foreign protein.

Until today cornea transplants were usually undertaken without any attempts to suppress the defence mechanisms by immunological means.

Some hospitals now begin with tissue compatibility tests, as in organ transplants, in order to ascertain the similarity of the protein structure in the tissue of donor and recipient. The more similar these structures are, the more chance the operation has of being successful. But the expense necessary is very high.

Colloid chemist Professor Thiele of Kiel has developed a process that produces corneas without any cells. This seems to offer new ways to avoid an immunity reaction. The corneas contain next to no antigenes and do not therefore set off the defence mechanisms.

Until now corneas used in transplants were always in their original state with all biochemical components. They were either taken directly from the donor or were stored in deep freeze.

Professor Thiele now shows that corneas can be processed with plasmolysis. This chemical treatment destroys cells contained in the cornea by excess osmotic pressure. The cellular components are then discharged. The only thing remaining is the framework of collagen that support the tissue. This is a biological material but has a negligible body specificity and has thus only a weak effect on arousing immune reaction.

In theory this should provide the best possible conditions for a transplant. Because of its relationship with the body protein the transplant will be accepted and, on the other hand, its specificity is so small that it will not activate the defensive mechanisms.

The loose tissue, consisting entirely of collagen, will very soon be permeated by the juices of the recipient's body and the body's own cells will spread to it. It will thus be accepted as the body's own tissue.

Extensive experiments with this plasmolysed cornea have already been carried out in Bonn and Graz. Kiel University's Eye Hospital also wants to begin developing the process. A large French firm wants to take over the process for commercial purposes.

(Handelsblatt, 5 January 1970)

Sport is no longer taboo for diabetics

Diabetes has become a widespread disease. This is proved by the results of a series of population tests undertaken in this country.

Two years ago only about 1.5 per cent of citizens in the Federal Republic knew that they had diabetes.

But the latest tests showed that as many as a further 1,5 per cent were diabetics.

These one and a half million people are forced to change some of their habits. They must live according to a diet and many must take insulin injections to normalise the level of blood sugar.

Strenuous physical activities are to be avoided as much as possible and diabetics must not take part in any sport. This at least is the opinion of many diabetes specialists and researchers into the metabolism.

But Professor Hellmuth Mehnert, the Munich diabetologist, is of a different opinion. At an international scientific congress of sports' doctors in Munich he said that in treating diabetes many doctors had not recognised properly the importance of work for the muscles and had thus generally rejected it.

Of course there can be no sweeping generalisations when answering the question of whether a diabetic should be allowed to participate in sporting activity, Professor Mehnert went on to say.

The doctor's decision depended on the type and state of the disease as well as the extent of the sporting activity. There seems to be no justification for the frequently encountered opinion that intensive sporting activity could cause diabetes.

It is true that hyperglycaemia is observed after a period of particular exertion. That means that the proportion of sugar in the blood increases. If this increase exceeds a certain rate suspicion of diabetes is usually confirmed.

Professor Mehnert warned however that cause and effect should be viewed correctly in cases of hyperglycaemia caused by stress of this type. It is not physical exertion that causes diabetes, the diabetes already present in the body is forced into prominence by exertion. The professor added, "One can therefore say certainly that no one ever becomes a diabetic because of hyperglycaemia produced through the stresses of sport."

Sporting activity is of particular importance for the ten per cent of young diabetics who are prone to fatty degeneration and, consequently, diabetes. Competitive sport helps to lose weight and attain a normal rate of metabolism. In this way diabetics who have inherited the disease can postpone its full effect for several years, if not prevent it altogether with a fair degree of certainty.

Sporting activity should however be strictly controlled for diabetics with pronounced damage to the blood vessels. The exertions of competitive sport could lead to a worsening of angiopathic conditions.

Patients who have insulin injections are also warned by Professor Mehnert not to indulge in extreme physical activity. This could in certain circumstances result in the most serious type of metabolic change and this could not be forecast beforehand.

He cited tennis as an example. It is known that there have indeed been tennis players who needed insulin injections. But this sport, like all others putting incalculable demands on the individual, was not to be recommended to diabetics.

But diabetics of this type should be allowed to ramble, swim, ski and go in for the throwing disciplines of light athletics for instance, always providing that this is kept within reasonable bounds.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 January 1970)

■ EDUCATION

Cultural relations policy abroad

THE TEACHING OF GERMAN CONSIDERED OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE

New York's Institute of Technology has dropped German as a compulsory subject as its graduates only need to fall back on German literature occasionally.

But the language film *Guten Tag* has drawn great attention in twenty countries. In India the demand for German teachers cannot be satisfied but less German is learnt in Japan than was last century.

Whenever this country's cultural relations policy abroad is discussed one question crops up. Do we need to use German as a vehicle of communication or is this language with its reputation for clumsiness a brake on the interest that would be shown if we used a different language?

Should we sell our language abroad aggressively like the French, with 32,000 teachers, or satisfy only the actual demand like the English with 5,500 teachers abroad?

Different evaluations have been made of the importance of language for cultural relations policy. In June 1967 while still Foreign Minister Willy Brandt drew up the following definitions:

1: Cultural relations policy abroad represents our nation and its cultural production.

2: Along with national representation goes international cooperation.

3: Our cultural relations policy also serves to foster the knowledge of the German language abroad.

The multilingual Brandt never had a romantic relationship to the German language but at the Education Ministers' Conference in Bonn in March 1969 he said he was pleased that German abroad was on the point of becoming a popular study once again.

Luitpold Werz, at that time still head of the cultural department of the Foreign Office, stated in May 1969, "The crucial point for me is the preservation and fostering of the German language. This seems to me to be decisive as it is the language of the agents through whom alone a foreign culture can be understood."

Something of the philosophy of the Goethe Institute is showing through here. For their linguists the German language quite understandably stands right in the centre of cultural relations policy, partly out of professional enthusiasm, partly in competition to the Institute for German Language and Literature of East Berlin's Academy of Arts and Sciences whose activities abroad are expanding.

By the summer recess the Foreign Office plans to have a comprehensive plan for this country's cultural relations policy abroad. The composition of the Foreign Office has now changed. There is a new minister, Ralf Dahrendorf has replaced Jahn as Parliamentary State Secretary and Steltzer has succeeded Werz as head of the cultural department.

Some basic questions must now be asked. Is the German language to be fostered in the same manner and to the same extent as has been the case up till now? What will future policy be to the fostering of schools abroad?

Brandt gave an important hint in May 1969 when he said, "We would like to achieve the state of affairs where indigenous German teachers, educated at institutes in their own country, can take over the teaching of German as soon as possible. Only then is continuity in teaching the German language assured in a country, even in times of crisis."

This country's schools abroad are an essential prop of German language teaching. But the school problem is not identical with the language problem. German is taught outside these schools as well and in these schools German is not the only language learnt.

Most of this country's schools abroad sprang up of their own accord, founded by school associations. They are financially supported by the Foreign Office (264 schools in 43 countries), as well as by Goethe Institutes and the Circle of Friends of the Federal Republic's Schools Abroad, run by the Federal Republic's Industry and Trade Congress in Bonn.

Since 1 January 1969 they have been coordinated by the Central Office for Federal Republic Schools Abroad in Cologne.

The broad scale ranges from school groups with eighteen pupils in El Salvador to a full institution with a kindergarten and 2,300 pupils in Mexico City.

Funds allocated to these schools by the Foreign Office rose from a paltry 687,100 Marks in 1952 to a noteworthy 78 million Marks in 1968.

The Foreign Office distinguishes between two principle types of school:

1: Embassy or expert schools built exclusively or predominantly for children of Federal Republic citizens abroad.

2: Encounter schools where children of the host country are equal in number to children from this country.

Complaints are heard from nearly all the schools. There is a shortage of rooms, teachers and money, they claim. The loudest and most understandable though unheard complaints come from cities where the Federal Republic has no school.

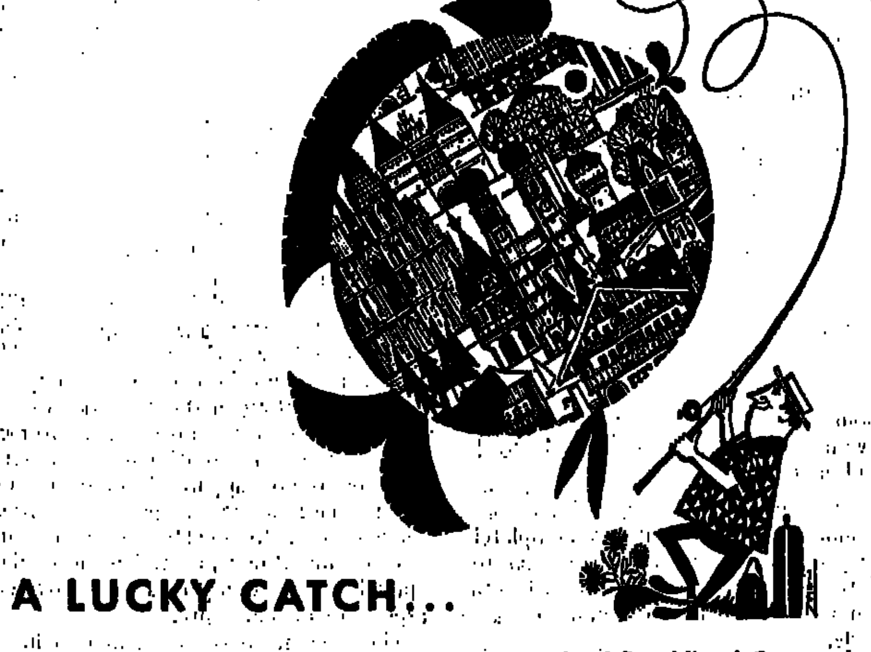
There is no school of this sort in London, the largest city in Europe and one of the three largest cities in the world. Blame must be laid partly on local problems and partly on the opinion that parents can send their children to English schools.

This argument is sound in theory. But when parents return to this country it means a change-over for the child from an English-speaking to a German-speaking school. For the children this is a serious problem that can sometimes be solved only by repeating a year. Salesmen and technicians from well-known firms in this country have often declined a transfer to London to spare their children these difficulties.

Encounter schools too have their drawbacks. The theory is good – the ideal situation would be the country's future head of state going to a school run by the Federal Republic – but there are snags in practice. The reputation of the school together – and this is true for many people – with the reputation of the Federal Republic is closely linked with the headmaster and the teachers. A schoolmaster can sometimes spoil more than all this country's culture policy can contribute to this place with a lot of money and good will.

Rolf Breitenstein

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 January 1970)





(Photo: dpa)

Professor Max Born dies in Göttingen

Nobel Prizewinner Professor Max Born died in Göttingen on 5 January 1970 aged 87 after being several weeks at the University Hospital. The last few years of his life were spent in Bad Pyrmont.

With Max Born international atomic science has lost one of its most important theoreticians.

Together with his pupils Werner Heisenberg and Pascual Jordan in 1926 Born gathered the results of previous research by Heisenberg and formed a comprehensive theory on atomic phenomena, quantum mechanics.

That same year Born found that protons and electrons, the basic components of the atom, did not move in courses that could be exactly calculated mathematically. This was contrary to all laws of nature known then.

Max Born was born on 11 December 1882. He studied law and ethics before devoting himself to physics. In 1907 he graduated as a doctor of philosophy at Göttingen.

Two years later he became a lecturer in physics at the same university and in 1914 he was called by Max Planck to become an extraordinary professor in Berlin.

In 1919 he took up a lecturing post in Frankfurt am Main. From 1921 onwards Born was a lecturer in Göttingen where a whole host of young atomic physicists were being educated. These included Heisenberg, Jordan, Oppenheimer, Karman and Teller.

When the National Socialists took over in 1933 Max Born was forced to leave his post because of his Jewish descent.

He emigrated, first to Cambridge and then to the Indian town of Bangalore. Rutherford then fetched him to Edinburgh where he taught until his retirement in 1953.

A year later he shared the Nobel Prize for Physics with Professor Walther Bothe for his statistic interpretation of quantum mechanics and his crystal grid theory.

In the spring of 1954 Born, who had now obtained British citizenship, returned to this country.

Max Born saw as the main task of his last few years to ensure that scientific findings were not abused by politics. He was one of the eighteen physicists who signed the Göttingen Declaration of 1957, warning against an atomic arms' race and equipping the Bundeswehr with atomic weapons.

He caused a stir in 1958 at a conference of Loccum Evangelical Academy when he called space travel a triumph of the intellect but a tragic failure of reason.

(DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 6 January 1970)

■ TRANSPORTATION

Are the days of the wheel numbered?



Today the railways carry uranium, tomorrow uranium will power the railways, runs a zippy Bundesbahn advertising slogan. The play on words in the original German might raise a flicker of interest in the eyes of futurologists but the idea as such will hardly come as much of a surprise to them after the technological possibilities that have already come to light.

Trains may still use permanent way dating from the nineteenth century but there can hardly be an area of technological fantasy on which sober futurologists and eager utopians make such common cause as the great iron way.

Science fiction authors have a weakness for railways and organisers of world fairs would not be without them either. In short, wherever forecasts about the future are made conjectural trains speed along imaginary tracks.

They travel at high speeds, their importance for future society even greater and many contemporary technologists feel that forecasts as to future means of locomotion go a little too far.

Will travellers of the future be catapulted across country in a glider train linked with the ground merely by a network of supporting pillars spaced at infrequent intervals? Or will they zoom along subterranean tubes at supersonic speeds?

It is more probable that they will travel in a more conventional setting. The only difference that tomorrow's travellers will notice will be wine glasses that do not spill and amazingly short times spent in transit.

Yet a railway revolution will nonetheless have occurred. Trains will be conveyed on cushions of air or magnets, powered by principles of electromagnetism and guided to their destination by total electronics.

Monsters from the land of utopia have long been examined by institutions that are most decidedly of this world, bodies ranging from aerospace firms to Deutsche Bundesbahn, the German Federal Railways.

The roads are congested and improvements are not keeping pace with the increasing amount of traffic. In this country alone there will probably be twenty million cars on the road by 1980 and new modes of passenger and goods conveyance will become essential. The railway network, capable of expansion and rationalisation, will have fresh tasks to perform.

Technological revolution is inevitable in the process. Superfast rail links designed to complement the existing railway network will wave goodbye – after 150 years – to the principle of wheel and rail. Conventional means of propulsion and costing will be as much things of the past as the ticket inspector.

In this country Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, the Munich and Hamburg-based aerospace consortium, Strabag, the Cologne civil engineers, and the Bundesbahn are collaborating in a study designed to investigate the technological requirements of a high-performance high-speed rail link. Progress is on the march.

In other countries it is more in evidence. Since 1964 the now legendary Tokaido express has linked Tokyo and Osaka. It covers the 286 miles between the two cities in three hours and provides a quick succession of regular services capable of handling 350,000 passengers a day.

The superlatives of Japan's super-expresses are, it is true, based on the conventional combination of rail, wheel and overhead power link, but the technical research institute of Japanese State Railways has already designed a second Tokaido line on which electromagnetically powered trains are to be borne along cushions of air.

They are said to be capable of speeds of 300 miles an hour and would reduce the time it takes to travel between Tokyo and Osaka by two thirds. Linear induction propulsion is already undergoing trials on a shunt locomotive.

The same means of propulsion is to power Britain's hovertrain, a state-aided prototype of which is to undergo trials on special track next year.

Like the hovertrain and Hokaido II France's aerotrain also glides over the rails on a cushion of compressed air, the difference being that it is already doing so. The ten-metre long aluminium body straddles a monorail track near Paris.

Speeds of more than 200 miles an hour have been reached, a trial stretch between Paris and Orleans is to be completed this year and the French government has invested 35 million francs in industrialist Jean Bertin's development.

The sole handicap is the present means of propulsion, an airscrew mounted at the rear. The propeller makes more noise than is warranted in built-up areas.

Elsewhere a damper is put on the excesses of futurology. "We," says Bundesbahn planning director Hans Kalb, "are sticking to the wheel." At Bundesbahn head offices in Frankfurt the future is seen mainly in terms of new permanent way, leveller tracks and fresh superstructures.

Suburban railway networks must be constructed, inter-city traffic dealt with and links between rail and other means of surface transport established. Regional planning and general cargo concepts take on a more urgent look than the railway of the future.

All concerned are in any case agreed that a high-performance high-speed rail network can only complement existing facilities.

A great many improvements can be made to existing railway facilities. Techniques long since tried and trusted in other sectors remain to be introduced by the railways. The need for European coordination hinders progress less by a lack of imagination than by an abundance of tough negotiations.

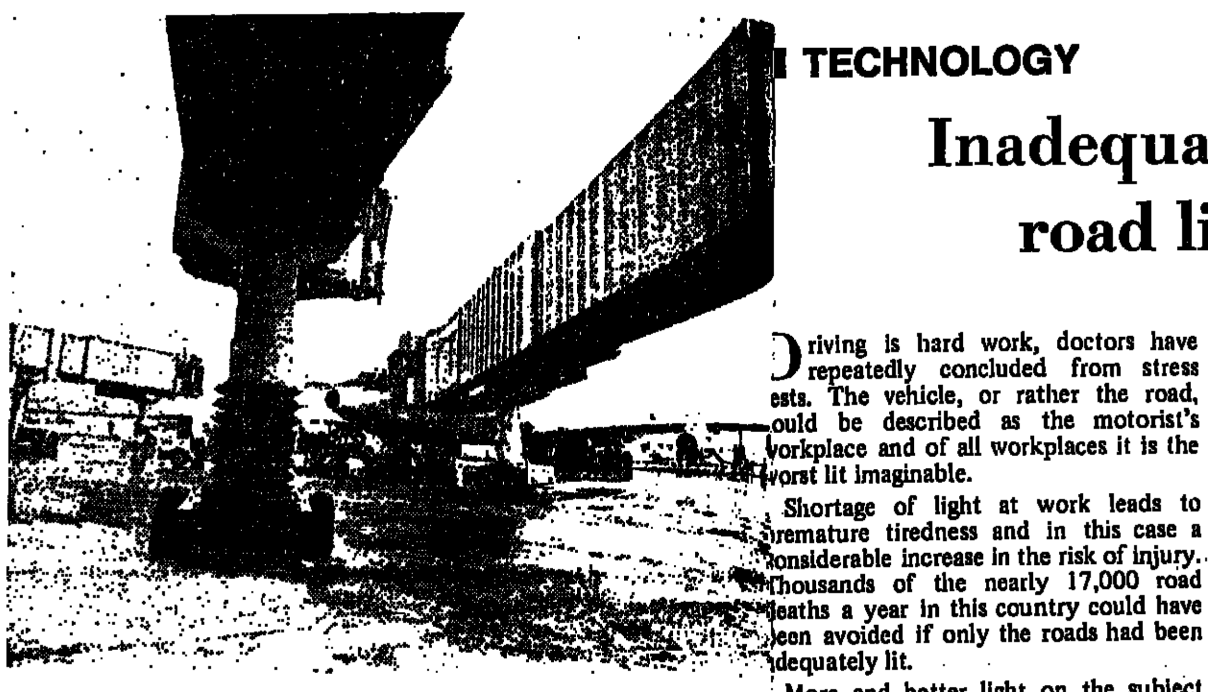
European railway authorities have just agreed on the introduction of a standard design in automatic carriage couplings – by 1976!

Electronics will bring about integrated transport control and more rational utilisation of facilities. At Seelze, near Hanover, the Bundesbahn is experimenting with process computers in shunting and assembling goods trains.

Guide cables that transmit acceleration and braking distance data to the driver's cab can be expected to result in increased speed. Since 1965 trains between Munich and Augsburg have travelled by electric vision.

Lightweight construction and new means of propulsion promise to cut both travelling time and fuel costs, but neither lightweight metal waggons nor gas turbines are to be seen on European railways. What has long been put into practice in neighbouring technologies rates as utopia in progress as understood by the railway authorities.

This has its advantages as far as the construction of a German expressrail is concerned. At Ottobrunn, near Munich, where the high-speed rail study group is based, new modes of transport are examined from the viewpoint of functionality. The boffins are not limited to certain technological principles; all they have to do is to fulfil certain transport requirements.



Frankfurt West Ai[rport]

The first part of the receptio[n] Frankfurt West Airport built a[t] 650 million Marks was [p]... operation on 6 January. Th[e] complex should be ready by la[te] The picture shows a plane at th[e] the extendable corridor that [r] from the building to the fusela[ge] aircraft. (Ph...)

The expressrail must convey p... freight and motor vehicles, relie[ving] pressure on road traffic and li[nking] major economic regions. These [...] call for high speed, low transport [costs] and safe and reliable operation.

The route it will follow approx[imates] to the shape of the country. Start[ing from] Hamburg, the expressrail will lin[k Han]over, the Ruhr, the Rhine-Main [area] and Stuttgart with Munich. Acces[s facili]ties for future European East-We[st links] are to be provided.

In order to satisfy requirement[s until] well past the year 2000 the study [group] estimates that costs, divided over [a con]struction period of ten to twelve [years,] will amount to a mean 1,000 to [...] million Marks per annum.

Roughly 600 miles of track wo[uld have] to be built – on pillars in built[-up areas] and regions where differences in [level] make it necessary. Studies no[w being] carried out in Ottobrunn are de[signed to] ascertain what kinds of train w[ill run,] how fast they will travel and wh[at means] of propulsion they will adopt [...] where technological revolution [...] into its own.

The wheel has not yet been wri[tten off.] Speeds of 200 miles an hour are p[ossible] but high maintenance costs are a[n argu]ment against conventional rail tr[affic] and the greater the speed the tri[ckier the] problems of adjusting wheels [...] become.

"It would be fine to arrive at [a system] whereby trains did not come int[o] contact with the track," says [...] engineer Herr Heidelberg, who is [...] in systems analysis of the project. [...]

Ten years of trials represent a [...] advantage for air cushions but the [advan]tage of the magnetic cushion is t[hat the] distance between train and track [can be] maintained constant to within [...] of a centimetre, which boosts the [...] of a linear induction engine.

The study group will hardly b[e in a] position to submit its proposals [to the] appropriate Ministries before 19[..;] the subsequent development pha[se will] last at least five years and possib[ly] longer should a drastic change fro[m exist]ing facilities be involved.

So forwarders of fissile materials [must] bear in mind that uranium will co[ntinue] for some time to be conveyed b[y rail] rather than to provide propulsion f[or it.]

(DIE WELT, 5 Januar[y 1970])

The Railways and the future

Deutsche Bundesbahn, the German Federal Railways, look forward with confidence to the new decade. Initial transport policy and balance-sheet progress is expected for 1970.

The main alteration this year, Bundesbahn headquarters report, will be a complete reorganisation of general cargo from 1 June, after which date roughly two thirds of the present goods stations will no longer accept general cargo.

In their place the Bundesbahn is to establish a network of door-to-door road links that will make possible direct collection and delivery.

The railways also intend to keep pace with technological developments in 1970. Completion of the Hanover region cybernetics centre and the beginnings of intercom facilities on board long-distance locomotives both represent ventures into virgin territory.

Deliveries of further supplies of 103 class electrix express locomotives will lay the groundwork for heavy expresses to travel at regular maximum speeds of 100 miles an hour.

The number of steam locomotives still in service, which stood at roughly 1,650 at the end of 1969, will be reduced by at least 200 in the course of the year and replaced by diesel and electric locomotives that are scheduled for delivery.

It is also planned to add another ferry to the Bundesbahn's fleet; it will operate on the route between Puttgarden and Rodby on the Hamburg-Copenhagen run.

Rolling stock both for passenger and goods traffic is to be rejuvenated, the delivery of 7,500 special goods waggons being expected. This spring will also see the opening of the thousandth electronic signal-box.

Track-laying and renewal will continue as planned, toughly 8,000 miles being due for inspection. Nearly eighty million Marks are to be spent on increasing levelcrossing safety. Last but not least the Bundesbahn hopes to corner at least fifty per cent of the container market.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 2 January 1970)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Inadequate vehicle headlights and road lighting cause accidents

Industriekurier

Driving is hard work, doctors have repeatedly concluded from stress [t]ests. The vehicle, or rather the road, [c]ould be described as the motorist's [w]orkplace and of all workplaces it is the worst lit imaginable.

Shortage of light at work leads to [p]remature tiredness and in this case a [c]onsiderable increase in the risk of injury. Thousands of the nearly 17,000 road [d]eaths a year in this country could have [b]een avoided if only the roads had been [a]dequately lit.

More and better light on the subject [c]an be achieved by means of both vehicle [h]eadlights and street lighting. The intro[d]uction of iodine lamps a few years ago [r]epresented a considerable improvement.

Because of the danger of blinding on[c]oming traffic, however, there are limits to the improvements that can be made to [v]ehicle headlights; street lighting must do [t]he donkey work.

The danger of road accidents increases considerably during the dark. Statistics show that the accident rate is roughly thirty per cent higher between October and January than during the rest of the year. Other factors, such as icy roads, fog and so on do, of course, also play a role but American statistics prove a connection between poor light at night and higher accident figures.

Figures for Montana show that 88, or 3.85 per cent, of 2,285 accidents on unlit roads were fatal, as against fifteen, or 1.35 per cent, of 1,113 accident on roads with street lighting.

This one example is convincing enough, though unfortunately there are no comparable figures for this country available. The only country where comprehensive figures are available is Belgium, where night traffic accounts for a quarter of the total over the year as a whole.

On roads inadequately lit by means of normal bulbs night-time accident rates were twice as high as during the day. On roads lit by sodium lamps the rate was only half as much again and Osram specialists are convinced that if still better lighting systems were used the night-time accident rate would be only twenty per cent higher than during the day.

Similar estimates have been made in the United States, where the object of the exercise was to discover how many road deaths could have been averted by better street lighting.

The conclusion, based on the accident figures for 1963, was that of the 43,600 people who died on the roads 8,000 might still be alive if the lighting had been better.

Better street lighting has long been a technical possibility. The expense is the only snag. The powers that be should nonetheless get to work as soon as possible. On fast roads at the very least adequate lighting is essential.

According to the Ministry of Transport it would cost 400,000 Marks to illuminate a mile of autobahn. Industrial estimates are far lower. Osram reckon 240,000 Marks would suffice for installation costs and annual running and maintenance costs would amount to roughly 32,000 Marks a mile.

Even assuming that the true cost lies somewhere between the two figures the amount of money involved is no deterrent. In extreme instances a mile of autobahn can cost several million Marks to build as it is.

These costs only apply, however, if the lighting is installed as the autobahn is constructed. Subsequent installation is a good deal more expensive. Industrial demands for the necessary piping to be installed on new autobahns seem justified.

In the long run there can be no avoiding street lighting. Werner Mackenroth, president of a German road organisation, outlined the situation as follows at a roads congress last year: "In the year 2000 trunk roads will have to be fully lit and heated."

(Industriekurier, 8 January 1970)

Headlight improvements

Blinding of oncoming traffic by poorly set headlights will soon be a thing [o]f the past. Research staff at a Stuttgart [f]irm have developed a lighting distance [r]egulator with feelers that continuously [m]easure the relative position of body[w]ork and axle.

A mini-computer then works out the [o]ptimum headlight setting and sets the [h]eadlights accordingly. A simpler device [i]s already on the market. Fitted to a [F]rench car, it also automatically adjusts [h]eadlights on the basis of a balance mechanism.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 January 1970)

Artificial urea as ice solvent on roads

Inzell, Bavaria, branch of the Federal Roads Institute is to test the use of artificial urea as an ice solvent in the New Year. The B 305, a high-lying Alpine road between Inzell and Ruhpolding that is iced over for long periods during the winter, is to be used for trials.

Artificial urea has the advantage over conventional road salt of being non-corrosive and has for this reason already been used to de-ice a number of military airstrips on which expensive aircraft stood to suffer from corrosion.

The disadvantage is that urea is eight times as expensive as salt: four times the price per hundredweight and eight times as expensive in that at minus ten centigrade twice the amount of urea is needed to achieve a comparable thaw.

This considerable cost factor has so far made general use of artificial urea out of the question. According to Herr Ahlbrecht of the Ministry of Transport its use on trunk roads alone would cost the taxpayer an estimated additional 600 million Marks a year.

An attempt is now at last to be made to determine whether it is worthwhile preventing corrosion of road bridges. The motor industry estimates damage to motor vehicles caused by chemicals of this kind at 400 million Marks a year. It is easy to imagine how much greater the damage to the metal components of road bridges must be.

Effective protection of bridges from corrosion does, of course, presuppose that successive layers of salt and urea do not adversely affect driving properties. To determine whether this is in practice the case is the idea behind the experiments being carried out at Inzell.

In order to spread both salt and urea on the road special twin-chamber devices have been developed at Inzell roads depot. The driver can switch from one to the other by pulling a lever in the cab.

Motorists are adequately warned of the possible dangers that lie in store for them by means of roads signs. By next summer the results of the experiment are to be published and by the beginning of next winter a decision taken as to whether or not large amounts of artificial urea are in future to be used on the roads.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 January 1970)

Central institute proposed for accident research

DIE WELT
UNABHÄNGIGE TAGESZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

In a recently published memorandum the Rhineland branch of the Technical Supervision Association (TÜV), the body that carries out two-year tests on motor vehicles, advocates the establishment of a central institute for accident research.

Although the government, private bodies and research organisations in this country have been combatting accidents for decades success has on the whole been modest, a spokesman for the TÜV stated.

One argument in favour of the proposed research institute is that controlled work on accidents has so far failed because causes have invariably been sought at the place of the accident and where the danger has proved to be acute.

Rhineland TÜV concludes that the lack of genuine coordination is coupled with powerful fragmentation that has an extreme effect on the level and range of accident research.

Ways of forecasting accident risks are largely unknown and as a result research methods are at a low scientific level. The exchange of information is also fairly scanty.

The following conclusions are drawn: – Danger analysis must have priority over accident analysis. – Regardless of the danger zones safety analyses must cover both technical and human aspects and their mutual relations. – A central institute for accident research should only engage in basic research and offer the many accident prevention bodies bases for decision on special accident prevention measures.

Institute staff should include not only engineers, mathematicians and physicists but also doctors and psychologists. The memorandum calls on the government, trade associations, insurance firms, universities, industrial organisations, trade unions and the eleven Technical Supervision Associations to assume responsibility for the institute.

It is, however, doubted whether in view of the practical implementation of the establishment of an institute and subsequent work it will prove possible to gather all these organisations together.

At the TÜV head office in Cologne no doubt was left as to the urgency of the proposal. "If consumption of electric power is taken as an indication of increasing technologisation of life, the increase of 95 per cent between now and 1985," director Kuhlmann of the TÜV noted, "it can only be concluded that the risk of accidents occurring has by no means peaked."

(DIE WELT, 8 January 1970)

Deaths on the roads

In the first nine months of 1969 a total of 130,273 road accidents were reported in the Federal state of Baden-Württemberg. In three cases out of four only material damage was caused, the state statistics office notes. The other quarter accounted for 49,028 injuries.

There were 1,662 deaths, an increase of eleven on the corresponding period in 1968, 14,759 serious and 32,607 minor injuries. The September death figures were particularly high at 255, an increase of 61 over September 1968.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 7 January 1970)